# Journal of Inequalities in Pure and Applied Mathematics

## SOME REMARKS ON LOWER BOUNDS OF CHEBYSHEV'S TYPE FOR HALF-LINES



Department of Mathematics and Statistics San Diego State University

San Diego CA 92182, U.S.A. EMail: lesley@math.sdsu.edu

URL: http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~lesley/

EMail: rotar@sciences.sdsu.edu

URL: http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~rotar/



volume 4, issue 5, article 96, 2003.

Received 02 October, 2003; accepted 31 October, 2003.

Communicated by: A. Rubinov



©2000 Victoria University ISSN (electronic): 1443-5756 136-03

#### **Abstract**

We prove that for any r.v. X such that  $E\{X\}=0,\ E\{X^2\}=1,\ \text{ and } E\{X^4\}=\mu$ , and for any  $\varepsilon\geq 0$ 

$$P(X \ge \varepsilon) \ge \frac{K_0}{\mu} - \frac{K_1}{\sqrt{\mu}}\varepsilon + \frac{K_2}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}}\varepsilon,$$

where absolute constants  $K_0=2\sqrt{3}-3\approx 0.464,\ K_1=1.397,\ \text{and}\ K_2=0.0231.$  The constant  $K_0$  is sharp for  $\mu\geq \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}\approx 1.09.$  Some other bounds and examples are given.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 62E20; Secondary 60E05. Key words: Inequality of Chebyshev's type.

## **Contents**

1	Introduction and Results	3
2	Examples	6
3	Proof of Proposition 1.1	9
Ref	ferences	



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents

Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 2 of 15

## 1. Introduction and Results

Let X be a r.v. such that  $E\{X\} = 0$ ,  $E\{X^2\} = 1$ ,  $E\{X^4\} = \mu$ . It is well known (see, e.g., [4, Chapter XII, 3]) that for any  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ 

$$P(|X| > \varepsilon) \ge \frac{(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2}{\mu - 1 + (1 - \varepsilon^2)^2} \ge \frac{(1 - \varepsilon^2)^2}{\mu}.$$

The first inequality is sharp, the second is somewhat simpler, and is used, for example, for proving the Paley-Zygmund inequality (see, e.g., [3]). (There is a reason to involve, not the third absolute, but the fourth moment (see, e.g., [4]): the highest moment should be absolute, and the third absolute moment is hard to calculate, for example, when X is the sum of r.v.'s.)

Although there has been a great deal of interest in obtaining bounds of such a type, we have been unable to find a handy and useful lower bound for the "one-sided" probability  $P(X>\varepsilon)$  in the literature. Possibly it is because such a bound, as will be seen, is not so simple in proof, and can be meaningful only for sufficiently small  $\varepsilon$ . However we suspect that such results may exist.

A need for a convenient lower bound for the probability mentioned may arise in many problems. We encountered such a need recently in [1], in the study of the dimension of the sets of convergence for some random series.

The main result of this note is

**Proposition 1.1.** For any r.v. X described above, and for any  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ 

(1.1) 
$$P(X \ge \varepsilon) \ge \frac{K_0}{\mu} - \frac{K_1}{\sqrt{\mu}}\varepsilon + \frac{K_2}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}}\varepsilon,$$

where absolute constants  $K_0 = 2\sqrt{3} - 3 \approx 0.464$ ,  $K_1 = 1.397$ ,  $K_2 = 0.0231$ .



Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 3 of 15

In particular,

$$(1.2) P(X>0) \ge \frac{K_0}{\mu}.$$

We show below that the last bound, and hence the constant  $K_0$  in (1.1), is sharp if

(1.3) 
$$\mu \ge \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1} \approx 1.098.$$

When  $\mu \leq \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$ , the sharp bound, as will be shown, is

(1.4) 
$$P(X > 0) \ge \frac{2}{3 + \mu + \sqrt{(1 + \mu)^2 - 4}}.$$

The r.-h.s of (1.2) is equal to the r.-h.s of (1.4) for  $\mu=\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$ , and is less for all other  $\mu$ 's. For  $\mu\leq\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$  we can choose (1.4), while for  $\mu>\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$  the proper bound is (1.2). We do not obtain here the counterpart of (1.1) with a sharp constant for  $\mu<\frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$ : first, this case is rather narrow:  $1\leq\mu<1.1$ ; second, (1.1) which is true for all  $\mu$ , may serve well for this range of  $\mu$  as well: say, for  $\mu=1$  the sharp bound is certainly  $\frac{1}{2}$ , which does not differ much from 0.464.

Since  $K_2$  is small and the denominator in the third term of (1.1) is larger than the denominator in the second term, practically we can restrict ourselves to the bound

(1.5) 
$$P(X \ge \varepsilon) \ge \frac{K_0}{\mu} - \frac{K_1}{\sqrt{\mu}} \varepsilon.$$



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page
Contents











Quit

Page 4 of 15

This bound is meaningful if

$$\varepsilon \le \frac{K_3}{\sqrt{\mu}},$$

where  $K_3 = \frac{K_0}{K_1} \geq 0.332$ . The last constant is not sharp. However the restriction of type (1.6) with some constant is necessary for the bound for  $P(X \geq \varepsilon)$  to be meaningful. For example, as will be shown, for any  $\mu \geq 1$  there exists a r.v.  $\dot{X}$  with the above moment conditions, such that

$$(1.7) P\left(X > \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu}}\right) = 0.$$

Certainly, this does not mean that  $K_3$  is equal to one. In particular, we will see below that there exists  $\mu > 1$  and a r.v. X with the same moment conditions such that

$$(1.8) P\left(X > \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{\mu}}\right) = 0.$$

This means that  $K_3$  should not exceed  $\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \approx 0.866$ .



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 5 of 15

## 2. Examples

(1) The first example is simple and could be used in teaching. Let  $z \ge 0$ , and

$$X = \begin{cases} \sqrt{z} & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{z+1}, \\ \\ \frac{-1}{\sqrt{z}} & \text{with probability } \frac{z}{z+1}. \end{cases}$$

For small (or for large) z the distribution is "strongly asymmetric", but  $E\{X\}=0,\ E\{X^2\}=1,$  and

$$E\{X^4\} = z + \frac{1}{z} - 1,$$

which can be equal to any number  $\geq 1$ . Setting  $z+z^{-1}-1=\mu$ , we get  $z_1=z(\mu)=\left(1+\mu+\sqrt{(1+\mu)^2-4}\right)\Big/2$ ,  $z_2=\frac{1}{z(\mu)}$ . It is easy to see that  $\mu\leq z(\mu)\leq 1+\mu$ , and hence for  $z=z_2$  (1.7) is true. Straightforward calculations show that  $\min_{\mu\geq 1}\sqrt{\frac{\mu}{z(\mu)}}=\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$ , and is attained at  $\mu=\frac{3}{2}$ . So, for this  $\mu$  (1.8) holds.

(2) As is known, and as will be seen in Section 3, the extreme distribution in our problem is that concentrated at just three points. It is easy to realize also (see, for example, the next section) that for the case  $\varepsilon = 0$  one of these points is zero. Restricting ourselves for a while to this case, consider

$$X = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \sqrt{\mu}a & \text{with probability } u, \\ \\ 0 & \text{with probability } 1-u-v, \\ \\ -\sqrt{\mu}b & \text{with probability } v, \end{array} \right.$$



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents

Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 6 of 15

where a, b, u, v are positive numbers. For  $E\{X\} = 0$ ,  $E\{X^2\} = 1$ ,  $E\{X^4\} = \mu$  one should have

(2.1) 
$$au = bv, \quad a^2u + b^2v = \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad a^4u + b^4v = \frac{1}{\mu},$$

and

$$(2.2) 0 \le u + v \le 1.$$

It is easy to check that solutions to (2.1) may be represented as

$$u = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{x^2 - x + 1}{x + 1}, \quad v = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{x^2 - x + 1}{x(x + 1)},$$
$$a^2 = \frac{1}{x^2 - x + 1}, \quad b^2 = \frac{x^2}{x^2 - x + 1},$$

where x > 0 (one can set  $x = \frac{u}{v}$ , and solve (2.1) directly). For example, setting x = 1, we have  $u = \frac{1}{2u}$ ,  $v = \frac{1}{2u}$ , a = 1, b = 1, and

$$X = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \sqrt{\mu} & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2\mu}, \\ \\ 0 & \text{with probability } 1 - \frac{1}{\mu}, \\ \\ -\sqrt{\mu} & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2\mu}, \end{array} \right.$$

which certainly is not the extreme case.



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Close

Quit

Page 7 of 15

To check (2.2), we note that  $u + v = \frac{1}{u}(x + x^{-1} - 1)$ .

Hence for (2.2) to be true, we should have  $\frac{1}{z(\mu)} \le x \le z(\mu)$ , where  $z(\mu)$  is the same as above. In this case  $P(X>0)=\frac{1}{\mu}\cdot\frac{x^2-x+1}{x+1}$ . The minimum of the last expression is attained at  $x^*=\sqrt{3}-1$ , and in this case  $P(X>0)=\frac{1}{\mu}(2\sqrt{3}-3)=\frac{K_0}{\mu}$ . Hence, if  $x^*\ge\frac{1}{z(\mu)}$ , the bound (1.2) is sharp.

It is straightforward to verify that  $x^* \geq \frac{1}{z(\mu)}$  iff  $\mu \geq \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1} \approx 1.098$ . If  $\mu \leq \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$ , then the minimum of P(X>0) is attained at  $x=z_2(\mu)=\frac{1}{z(\mu)}$ . In this case  $P(X=0)=0, x^2-x+1=\mu x$ , and

(2.3) 
$$P(X > 0) = \frac{z_2(\mu)}{1 + z_2(\mu)} = \frac{2}{3 + \mu + \sqrt{(1 + \mu)^2 - 4}}.$$

Thus, for  $\mu \leq \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$  we attain the bound (1.4). For  $\mu > \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$  the r.-h.s. of (2.3) is greater than  $\frac{K_0}{\mu}$ .



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents

Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 8 of 15

## 3. Proof of Proposition 1.1

We consider an appropriate *upper* bound for  $P(X \le \varepsilon)$  following the well known method based on the use of polynomials of a certain order (see, e.g., [2], [4]). In our case these are polynomials  $g(x) = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_4x^4$  such that for all x

$$(3.1) I_{[-\infty,\varepsilon]}(x) \le g(x).$$

Then for each such polynomial

$$(3.2) P(X \le \varepsilon) \le a_0 + a_2 + a_4 \mu.$$

Minimizing the right-hand side over all polynomials satisfying (3.1), one obtains a sharp upper bound for the left-hand side; see again, e.g., [2], [4]. Considering a smaller class of polynomials with the same property one would get just an upper bound. Let  $a, b, k \ge 0$ , and

$$g(x) = b(x-a)^{2} [(x+a)^{2} + ka^{2}] = b [(x^{2} - a^{2})^{2} + ka^{2}(x-a)^{2}].$$

(In this case the coefficient for  $x^3$  vanishes). It is easy to check that for  $k < \frac{1}{2}$  the function g has a local maximum at the point  $x_1 = a(\sqrt{1-2k}-1)/2$ , and local minima at the points a and  $x_2 = -a(1+\sqrt{1-2k})/2$ .

Let  $\nu=\frac{\varepsilon}{a}$ . Then  $g(\varepsilon)=ba^4l(\nu,k)$ , where  $l(\nu,k)=(1-\nu^2)^2+k(1-\nu)^2$ . Assume that

$$(3.3) \nu \le s,$$



Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 9 of 15

where the number s < 1 will be specified later. We have

$$l(\nu, k) = 1 + k - 2\nu^{2} + \nu^{4} - 2k\nu + k\nu^{2}$$

$$\leq 1 + k - 2k\nu - (2 - s^{2} - k)\nu^{2}$$

$$\leq 1 + k - 2k\nu \leq 1 + k,$$
(3.4)

and

$$l(\nu, k) = 1 + k - 2\nu^{2} + \nu^{4} - 2k\nu + k\nu^{2}$$

$$\geq 1 + k - 2k\nu - (2 - k)\nu^{2}$$

$$\geq 1 + k - 2k\nu - (2 - k)s\nu$$

$$= 1 + k - (2k + (2 - k)s)\nu.$$
(3.5)

Furthermore,  $g(x_2) = ba^4q(k)$ , where

$$q(k) = 4^{-1} \left[ 4^{-1} \left( \left( 1 + \sqrt{1 - 2k} \right)^2 - 4 \right)^2 + k \left( 3 + \sqrt{1 - 2k} \right)^2 \right]$$
$$= 4^{-1} \left[ 2 + 10k - k^2 - (2 - 4k)\sqrt{1 - 2k} \right].$$

The function  $\Delta(k):=q(k)-1-k$  is increasing;  $\Delta(.5)\approx .1875$ , and  $\Delta(k_0)=0$  for  $k_0=6\sqrt{3}-10\approx .392$ , which one can verify by direct calculations. Thus, for any  $k\in \left[k_0,\frac{1}{2}\right]$  it is true that  $q(k)\geq 1+k>l(\nu,k)$  and if  $g(\varepsilon)\geq 1$ , then  $g(x)\geq g(x_2)\geq g(\varepsilon)\geq 1$  for all  $x\leq \varepsilon$ .

We set also  $b = 1/a^4 l(\nu, k)$  for  $g(\varepsilon) = 1$ .



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Close

Quit

Page 10 of 15

Consider a r.v. X such that EX = 0,  $EX^2 = 1$ ,  $EX^4 = \mu$ . Then

$$\begin{split} P\left(X \leq \varepsilon\right) &\leq E\{g(X)\} \\ &= bE\left\{X^4 - 2X^2a^2 + a^4 + ka^2(X^2 - 2aX + a^2)\right\} \\ &= b\left[(1+k)a^4 - (2-k)a^2 + \mu\right] \\ &= \frac{1+k}{l(\nu,k)} - \frac{2-k}{l(\nu,k)a^2} + \frac{\mu}{l(\nu,k)a^4}. \end{split}$$

So, in view of (3.3), (3.4) and (3.5)

$$P(X \le \varepsilon) \le \frac{1+k}{1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)\nu} - \frac{2-k}{(1+k-2k\nu)a^2} + \frac{\mu}{(1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)\nu)a^4}.$$

To avoid cumbersome calculations we minimize the last expression in a, not taking into account for a while that  $\nu$ , as a matter of fact, depends on a. That is, we set

(3.6) 
$$a^2 = \frac{2\mu(1+k-2k\nu)}{(1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)\nu)(2-k)},$$

which implies that

$$P(X \le \varepsilon) \le \frac{1+k}{1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)\nu} - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{(2-k)^2(1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)\nu)}{(1+k-2k\nu)^2} \cdot \frac{1}{\mu}$$



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 11 of 15

$$= 1 + \frac{(2k + (2 - k)s)\nu}{1 + k - ((2 - s)k + 2s)\nu} - \frac{(2 - k)^2}{4\mu(1 + k)} + \frac{(2 - k)^2}{4\mu(1 + k)} \left(1 - \frac{(1 + k)(1 + k - (2k + (2 - k)s)\nu)}{(1 + k - 2k\nu)^2}\right).$$

It is easy to check that the expression in the last brackets does not exceed  $\nu[-2(1+k)k+4k^2s+(1+k)(2-k)s]/(1+k-2k\nu)^2$ .

Note also that, for a chosen

$$\frac{2\mu(1+k-2ks)}{(1+k)(2-k)} \le a^2 \le \frac{2\mu(1+k)}{(1+k-(2ks+(2-k)s^2)(2-k)}.$$

From this it follows that

$$P(X \le \varepsilon) \le 1 - \frac{(2-k)^2}{4\mu(1+k)} + \frac{(2k+(2-k)s)}{1+k-(2k+(2-k)s)s} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{a} + \frac{(2-k)^2}{4\mu(1+k)} \cdot \frac{(1+k)(2-k)s+4k^2s-2(1+k)k}{(1+k-2k\nu)^2} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{a}.$$

We now set  $k = k_0 = 6\sqrt{3} - 10$ . Then

$$a^{2} \le \frac{2.7847\mu}{(1.3923 - (0.7847s + 1.6077s^{2}))1.6076} = \frac{1.7322\mu}{1.3923 - 0.7847s - 1.6077s^{2}},$$

and

(3.7) 
$$a^2 \ge \frac{2\mu(1.3923 - 0.7847s)}{1.3924 \cdot 1.6077} \ge 0.8934\mu(1.3923 - 0.7847s).$$



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Close

Quit

Page 12 of 15

Furthermore, let  $K_0 = (2-k_0)^2/4(1+k_0) = 2\sqrt{3}-3$ . We consider now  $s \le .38$ , which implies that  $(1+k)(2-k)s + 4k^2s - 2(1+k)k \le 2.90s - 1.09 < 0$ . Thus

$$\begin{split} &P\left(X \leq \varepsilon\right) \\ &\leq 1 - \frac{K_0}{\mu} + \frac{0.7847 + 1.6077s}{1.3923 - 0.7847s - 1.6077s^2} \\ &\qquad \times \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{0.8934\mu(1.3923 - 0.7847s)}} \\ &\qquad + \frac{0.4641}{\mu} \cdot \frac{2.8540s - 1.0924}{1.9386} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{1.3923 - 0.7847s - 1.6077s^2}}{\sqrt{1.7322\mu}} \varepsilon \\ &\leq 1 - \frac{K_0}{\mu} + \frac{(1.0570)(0.7847 + 1.6077s)}{1.3923 - 0.7847s - 1.6077s^2} \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{\sqrt{\mu(1.3923 - 0.7847s)}} \\ &\qquad - 0.1818 \cdot (1.0924 - 2.8540s) \\ &\qquad \times \sqrt{1.3923 - 0.7847s - 1.6077s^2} \frac{\varepsilon}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}} \\ &\qquad - 1 - \frac{K_0}{\mu} + \frac{C_1(s)\varepsilon}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}} - \frac{C_2(s)\varepsilon}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}} \end{split}$$

$$(3.8) = 1 - \frac{K_0}{\mu} + \frac{C_1(s)\varepsilon}{\sqrt{\mu}} - \frac{C_2(s)\varepsilon}{\mu\sqrt{\mu}}.$$

On the other hand, the requirement (3.3) means  $\varepsilon \leq as$ , which is true if  $\varepsilon \leq C_3(s)\sqrt{\mu} = s\sqrt{1.2438 - 0.7011s}\sqrt{\mu} \leq s\sqrt{0.8934\mu(1.3923 - 0.7847s)} \ .$  (see (3.7)).

We choose s for which

$$C_3(s) \ge \frac{K_0}{C_1(s) - C_2(s)}.$$



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

Title Page Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 13 of 15

The bound (3.8) is meaningful if

$$\varepsilon \le \frac{K_0\sqrt{\mu}}{\mu C_1(s) - C_2(s)} \le \frac{K_0\sqrt{\mu}}{C_1(s) - C_2(s)} \le C_3(s)\sqrt{\mu}.$$

Calculations show that we can choose s=0.3375. In this case  $C_3(s)\geq 0.3382$ , and  $(K_0/(C_1(s)-C_2(s))\leq 0.33793,\ C_1(s)\leq 1.3965,\ C_2(s)\geq 0.0231$ .

**Remark 3.1.** The proof above is sharp in the case when the infimum of the r.-h.s. of (3.2) is attained at some polynomial. This is not the case when  $\mu < \frac{3}{\sqrt{3}+1}$ : in this situation the infimum is not attained, and, to make the proof sharp, one should consider a sequence of polynomials  $g_n(x)$  such that  $g_n(\varepsilon) \to \infty$ . It is easy to see this, considering, for example, the extreme case  $\mu = 1$ . We skipped such calculations.

Remark 3.2. The representation for polynomials could be different. For example, to evaluate just P(X > 0) it is convenient to consider polynomials of the type  $g(x) = 1 + kx(x - u)^2(x + 2u)$ , where k, u are constants, which practically immediately would bring us to (1.2). To get a bound for  $P(X > \varepsilon)$ , one could consider the same polynomial replacing the r.v. X by  $X - \varepsilon$  (see, e.g., such a sort of reasoning in [2]). However in our calculations it led us to worse constants  $K_2$  and  $K_3$ .

**Remark 3.3.** The same concerns the direct way based on considering distributions concentrated at three points (as we did in the previous section). The start is easy but in our calculations it led to worse constants.



#### Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Leslev and V.I. Rotar

Title Page

Contents









Go Back

Close

Quit

Page 14 of 15

## References

- [1] J.M. ANDERSON, F.D. LESLEY AND V.I. ROTAR, On a dyadic parametrization of curves, *Computational Methods and Function Theory*, to appear, 2003.
- [2] H.J. GODWIN, *Inequalities on Distribution Functions*, New York, Hafner Pub. Co., 1964.
- [3] J.-P. KAHANE, *Some Random Series of Functions*, 2nd Edn., University Press, Cambridge, 1985.
- [4] S. KARLIN AND W.J. STUDDEN, Tchebycheff Systems, With Applications in Analysis and Statistics, New York, Interscience Publishers, 1966.



Some Remarks on Lower Bounds of Chebyshev's Type for Half-lines

F.D. Lesley and V.I. Rotar

